

February 2015



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

DOUG HERRLE CHAPTER 61 SEGUIN TEXAS



DOUG HERRLE DAV CHAPTER 61 & DAVA UNIT 61 COMMANDERS' COMMENTS FEBRUARY 2015

We are well into a new year which I hope will be as successful as 2014. I want to thank all of you, Chapter and Unit members alike, for giving of yourselves to make these successes possible as we are making lives better for disabled veterans, keeping the promises to those who served.

I also want to thank the students at TLU who sponsored and implemented the 5K Run and made a nice donation to our Chapter resulting from the event. We appreciate all the time and energy involved in sponsoring such an event. We also thank all of you who participated in the Dash, helping to make it a success.

Now I will turn to the Chapter Service Officer (CSO) training held on February 8, 2015. The nine of us attending the class are now certified as CSOs for another year. Having this many CSOs in our Chapter allows us the flexibility to serve the veterans in a timely manner.

Jennifer Kellogg, the new supervisor for the San Antonio office of National Service Officers (NSO), conducted the training. She demonstrated that she is very knowledgeable as an NSO. She reaffirmed what we have been telling veterans concerning the filing of new claims. If a veteran is 60% - 90%, do not file a new claim unless it is for a life-threatening condition. The reason for filing a claim for a life-threatening condition would be to secure DIC benefits for your spouse should you die from this service-connected disability.

VA is re-evaluating veterans who file new claims in an effort to reduce their disability compensation. It is my opinion that VA is doing this to discourage veterans from filing new claims. VA has the right to re-evaluate claims at any time.

DAVA ANNUAL SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION

Our own Terri Herrle had the honor of being the instructor for the annual auxiliary School of Instruction on the weekend of January 17th. Those from our Unit who attended said that it was a very informative school this year with all the chairmen giving exceptional programs. It was, by all accounts, the most successful one we've held in quite a few years. Congratulations, Terri and many thanks for taking on this responsibility.

50 YEARS OF SERVING DISABLED VETERANS

I want to mention our 50th Anniversary Celebration

Continued

scheduled for March 14th at the Geronimo VFW. A lot has happened in 50 years. In the 20 years that I have been a member, I have seen us go from collecting cans and taking up donations from members at meetings just to pay the utilities. Trying to keep the Chapter House open was a month-to-month challenge. The big driving force for us was Doug Herrle who pushed and scratched to keep the Chapter going, serving disabled veterans.

Tickets to the event are on sale now at the Chapter House, 425 Vaughn Street, on Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 AM – 1 PM, or from any Chapter officer. There will be a catered meal and music for dancing. A cash bar will be available.

Tickets are \$12.00 if purchased BEFORE the event and \$15.00 if purchased at the door. We encourage you to buy your tickets now as occupancy for the event is limited. We are seeking raffle items for this event. Please bring your items to the Auxiliary office at our Chapter House on Tuesday or Wednesday, 9 AM to 1 PM. As this is a milestone celebration for our Chapter, this raffle will be a little different than the ones we have at our Christmas party. Should you have any questions about the raffle, please contact Terri Herrle, Unit Adjutant/Treasurer.

National Service Officers (NSOs) will be coming to our Chapter House on Thursday, March 12th and Friday, March 13th. Their van will be set up in the parking lot to serve clients between 9 AM and 4 PM.

Last but not least, our first Forget-Me-Not fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, April 18 and Sunday, April 19, 2015, at the Seguin Wal-Mart from 10 AM – 5 PM.

On Saturday, the 18th, we will be set up at only one of the doors, but on Sunday, the 19th, we will be set up at both doors, so Sunday is the day we will need the most volunteers. There will be a sign-up sheet at our next meeting, or please contact Gary Elley to get your name on the roster.

COMFORT ITEMS FOR BREAST CANCER PATIENTS

Again, a HUGE THANKS to Terri for starting our project off in a huge way. While I was still in surgery Terri was in the waiting room measuring “heart” pillows and drain pouches I had been given for post-surgery recovery. Thus began our most worthwhile continuing project of making and donating these items for breast cancer patients. The first donation was delivered to Dr.

Regina Fearmonti who is now carrying them with her and distributing them to her patients. She was very excited to receive the items, all made by Terri:

90 heart-shaped pillows (large and small), 35 rectangular pillows and 85 drain pouches. If you would like to participate in this project, please let Terri know. If you can't sew, you can still contribute by stuffing pillows. I am currently working on the items as well.

PLUSH ANIMALS CAN BE LIKE A WARM HUG

We have begun a drive to collect plush animals to donate to our local law enforcement agencies. The officers and deputies will carry the animals in their vehicles to give to children who are in need of comfort during a stressful situation. It may not mean much to us, but to a young child caught up in a stressful, scary situation beyond their understanding, one of these little animals can provide immediate comfort, something to hold on to, soft and cuddly, that won't be taken away from them. In some cases it might be all they have except for the clothes they are wearing.

Look for a box in the reception area of our Chapter House. We plan for this to be an on-going project and thought now would be a good time to start as there are lots of plush animals out this time of year- Valentine's, Easter, etc.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I once again, as Unit 61 Commander, owe a deep debt of thanks and appreciation to all of you who have taken up the slack and been so patient with me during my all too frequent absences of late. Your prayers, well wishes, cards and calls all mean so much to me. They often make my day as they seem to come when I'm having a difficult time emotionally. I am truly blessed to have you as my friends.

God Bless America. Be safe, see you soon.

Phil Sierer, Commander, Doug Herrle Chapter 61

Lynette Sierer, Commander, Unit 61

A new Bible Study has begun and there is still time to join the group. Topic for this session is learning how to pray. We meet every Wednesday, 1:30 – 3:00 PM at the chapter house. Workbooks are \$2.00 each.

Phil Sierer, Commander, Doug Herrle DAV Chapter 61
Lynette Sierer, Commander, DAVA Unit 61

DAVA COOKBOOKS NOW ON SALE

This is a fundraiser to benefit our DAVA Departmental (State) treasury. Each book costs \$15 and contains more than 300 recipes contributed by DAVA members, families and friends. We have a small supply of them at our Chapter House office. Once we sell these, we can get more until we sell all of them. Exact amount in cash, \$15, or a check made out to DAVA Unit 61 will be appreciated.

Our unit meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at the Chapter House. This is the same time and place that our Chapter meets.

Upcoming Events

Feb 13. 7PM. Elvis show at Geronimo VFW. Flyers posted.

Feb 21. 7PM. Justin Trevino at Geronimo VFW. Flyers posted.

Mar 12&13. NSO Mobile Service Van visits Chapter 61.

Mar. 14: Chapter 50th Birthday Party. Dinner/Dance at the Geronimo VFW Hall.

Apr 18. Chapter Honor Guard at Lockhart Veteran Welcome Home Event. Chapter is invited as well.

Apr 18&19. Chapter Forget Me Not at Walmart.

Our New Members

Joel R Capizzi-New Braunfels

Terry Zurovec-Seguin

Our Transferred Members

None

The Chapter 61 Staff.

Chapter Officers:

Commander	Phil Sierer
SV Commander	Gary Elley
JV Commander	JJ Chapa
Treasurer	Bella Wiatrek
Chaplain	Richard Cusson
Adjutant	Marlin Howze
SAA	Leon Garcia
Honor Guard	Juan DeLeon
Service Officer	Marlin Howze

Unit Officers:

Commander	Lynette Sierer
SV Commander	Leigh Harrelson
JV Commander	Joyce Farr
Treasurer/Adj	Terri Herrle
Chaplain	Jeanne Garriott
SEC	Terri Herrle
Alt SEC	Jeanne Garriott

This Newsletter is Edited and Published by DAV Chapter 61

PO Box 325, Seguin, TX 78156

We are located at 425 Vaughn Street,
Seguin, TX. 78155 or call 830-379-3299

Service Hours: 9am to 1pm

Tuesday & Wednesday

Monthly Business Meeting:

2nd Tuesday of the Month

PTSD Groups:

Every Tuesday, 12 am-1pm and 1:30-
2:30pm

VCZ: Tue-Wed, 9am-3pm

Seeking Safety: Wed. 7:30pm-9pm

For the most up to date news, please visit
our web site at

<http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/tx/61>.

You may Bookmark the site and refer
often to see what's happening.

Thoughts from the Chaplain

Never Disappointed

“...those who hope in me will not be disappointed.” (Isaiah 49:23, NIV)

What a powerful promise we have from Almighty God! When we put our hope in Him, we will never be disappointed. Of course, that doesn't mean that things will always go our way. There may be temporary disappointments, but we will never be permanently disappointed. Somewhere down the road, God will cause it to all work out for our good. With God on your side, you will always end in victory!

Are you carrying frustration, worry or aggravation about something? That's usually a clear sign that your hope is in the wrong place. If you hope in circumstances, it will deplete you of joy and peace. But when you turn those circumstances over to God, when you refuse to worry, when you refuse to allow the temporary things of this world to dictate your happiness, that's when God can do a work in your life. When you trust in Him, He will make your crooked places straight; He will cause you to mount up with wings like the eagle.

Today, choose to put your hope in the Father; you won't be disappointed. Trust Him because He is faithful. Find rest for your soul in knowing that He is good, and He has good things in store for your future! As your Chaplain I am available to you and your family for any needed counseling or discussion of any spiritual matter. Contact me at 4veterans@hotmail.com

Binnacle List

❖ *Comrade Dennis Roy back in hospital, Lynnette Sierer from surgery, Comrade Bill Owen recovering from back surgery, Comrade Basil Karm recovering from illness.*

Reminder

Bible Study is offered at the Chapter House every Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 PM usually finishing up by 3 pm. We have open and engaging discussions while we explore the Word of our Lord and find what he has to offer us. Come, join us. We are currently studying Romans.

DAV Meeting Minutes

Guadalupe County, TX Chapter 61

DATE: 02/10/2015

TIME: 7PM

Chapter House, 425 Vaughan St., Seguin TX 78155

CALL TO ORDER:

Prayer by Chaplain Richard Cusson

Flag Honors: Y

Joint Meeting Chapter and Unit

- ❖ Apr 18 & 19. Chapter Forget-Me-Not drive at Walmart. Oct 3 & 4. Aux Drive at Walmart.
- ❖ Mar 12 & 13. The DAV Mobile Service Van will be at Chapter 61. Spread the word.
- ❖ Mar 14. Chapter 61's 50th Anniversary will be held at VFW Geronimo Post 8456. Tickets are going on sale: \$12 in advance/\$15 at door. Music and catered dinner, this is a great deal for the price. Come and join as we celebrate 50 successful years of service to our community. We do need raffle/door prizes to offer.
- ❖ Feb 13. Geronimo VFW is having Elvis at the Post. We're all invited. \$10 at the door. This is a pro Elvis combined with some 50's Rock & Roll. Share the news. Supports the Warrior and Family Support Center Ft Sam.
- ❖ Feb 21. Justin Trevino and Band will be playing at the VFW Hall. A rare opportunity to see a band of this caliber playing at any small hall, much less the VFW. Tickets are very limited, so get them quick. Tickets are \$10 in advance/\$12 at the door. The VFW kitchen will be open as well. Make a full night of it. Call 830-379-1971 or Comrade Bill Owen for more info.
- ❖ Apr 18. Chapter 61 Honor Guard and membership are invited to the Lockhart Welcome Home Vets event. Our Honor Guard will do flag honors. See Comrade Juan De Leon for more info.
- ❖ Discussed conditions of Comrades Bill Owen, Basil Karm, and Dennis Roy. All are in various stages of recovery.
- ❖ Auxiliary retires.

Roll call of officers by Marlin Howze, Adjutant

Commander:	Present X	Absent
Sr. Vice Commander:	Present X	Absent
Jr. Vice Commander:	Present X	Absent
Treasurer:	Present	Absent X (Excused)
Chaplain:	Present X	Absent
Adjutant:	Present X	Absent
SAA:	Present X	Absent

Total officers & members present: 16 (Sign in sheet available)

Chapter had a quorum: Yes

Seven (7) Members shall constitute a quorum. 2 members present shall be elected officers.

Guests: None

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Names of New Members: Joel R Capizzi-New Braunfels, Terry Zurovec-Seguin.

Names of Transferred Members: None

(New members and those who have not been previously initiated must be initiated at their 1st meeting and their names recorded in minutes.)

Members Receiving Oath: None

Welcome to all our new members.

READING OF THE MINUTES: Stand as posted. (The commander asks if there are corrections to minutes. Hearing none he/she would declare the minutes are approved as read or posted. If there are corrections, the minutes would be adopted as amended by unit vote.)

Minutes are posted on Chapter Website, bulletin board, and emailed via Newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: From Dec01 to 31, 2014.

Beginning: \$27,758.95. Ending: \$27,682.15.

From Jan01-31, 2015.

Beginning: \$27,682.15. Ending: \$28,091.64.

Motion to accept: Comrade Roland Charles, 2nd by Comrade Warren Walls, carries.

Full report available for viewing on request.

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS: (see list in file)

- ❖ Eml: DAV Nat Adj-Nat'l 5K, Ltr: DAV TX HQ-2015 Conv Book Sale, Ltr: VFW Flyer-Elvis Show at Geronimo, VFW Flyer-Justin Trevino, Ltr: Seguin Woodmen of the World-Thak you for participation Vet Night Out.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS:

- ❖ Comrade Dennis Roy back in hospital, Lynnette Sierer from surgery, Comrade Bill Owen recovering from back surgery, Comrade Basil Karm recovering from illness.

LEGISLATION

DAV Legislative Report Febuary 2015

5 Significant legistlative actions being processed:

[**H.R. 333 – Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act.**](#) Authorize full concurrent receipt for retirees with a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent, including Chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service.

[**H.R. 303 – Retired Pay Restoration Act.**](#) Authorize full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation for retirees with regular or Guard/Reserve retirements, regardless of disability rating.

[**H.R. 218 – CHAMPVA Children's Protection Act.**](#) Increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program to age 26. This legislation would align CHAMPVA coverage for children with coverage provided under the Affordable Care Act.

[**H.R. 216 - Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Planning Reform Act.**](#) Require the Secretary of the VA to establish a Chief Strategy Office to advise the Secretary on long-range VA planning. The bill also aligns the planning cycle of the VA to a four year cycle to match DoD's in an effort to advance cooperative strategic planning and provide better long-term care for veterans.

[**S. 167 – Clay Hunt SAV Act.**](#) The House unanimously passed the companion measure (H.R. 203) on January 12. On Feb 2 the Senate passed H.R. 203, the *Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans (SAV) Act*, by a vote of 99-0. Having already cleared the House, the bill now heads to the President for his signature.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has signed two policy memorandums that direct the military services to allow veteran and military service organizations greater and more standardized access to installations and their troops and families.

SGT Maj. Ronald Green has been selected to become the 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

The U.S.-Canadian 1st Special Service Force, known as the "Devil's Brigade," was presented with the Congressional Gold Medal in a Feb. 3

Every year, VA hosts a Competition to harness the therapeutic powers of art and competition. This year's VA National Veterans Creative Arts competition began on January 1, 2015, with a local phase at nearly every VA facility. Veterans interested in participating can submit their art, music, dance or creative writing entries to their local VA facility's recreation/creative arts therapy department

MIAs/POWs Identified: WWII – 2, Korea – 1, Vietnam - 2

- **Marine Corps PVT. Jack M. Redman**, 20, , Ill., lost on Nov. 20, 1943, during the Battle of Tarawa. He was assigned to 6th Marine Regiment
- **Army SGT Joseph M. Snock Jr.**, 21, PA, lost on Nov. 30, 1950, in North Korea, where he died as a prisoner of war31st Infantry Regiment.
- **Army SGT 1st Class James W. Holt**, 26, , AR., lost Feb. 7, 1968, in Vietnam. He was assigned to 5th Special Forces Group
- **Air Force Capt. Richard D. Chorlins**, 24, MO, who was piloting an A-1 Skyraider aircraft on a night strike mission over the Mu Gia Pass in Laos when his aircraft was shot down by enemy ground fire on Jan. 11, 1970. He was assigned to the 34th Tactical Group.
- **U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. James F. Gatlin**, 25, Fla. 9th Air Force, On Dec. 23, 1944, Gatlin copiloted a B-26C Marauder that was shot down while on a bombing mission in Germany.,
- **Army SGT Gilberto L. Sanchez**, 19, of New Braunfels, Texas. Sanchez was assigned to Medical Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 31st Regimental Combat Team. His unit was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea when it was attacked by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces. On Dec. 1, 1950, remnants of the 31st RCT, known historically as Task Force Faith, began a fighting withdrawal to more defensible positions south of the reservoir. Sanchez was reported as missing in action on Dec. 2. He was buried Jan. 23 with full military honors in San Antonio.
- **Army Cpl. C.G. Bolden**, 24, AR. 2nd Infantry Division. He was captured by enemy forces on Jan. 5, 1951, and reportedly died in a North Korean POW Camp on April 30, 1951.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

- ❖ Membership: 2 new members.
- ❖ CSO: (Full report available)
 - Service Ofcrs. Jan 2015: Tot Vets Seen 67, Tot Hrs Used 100.5, Tot Hrs Avail 240.
 - Chaplain Hours: No Report
 - Individuals: No report
 - Honor Guard Hours: Jan: 5 events, 53 vols, 288 hrs.
 - Constitution and By Law Committee. Committee Chairman Walls gave1st reading of Update w/changes. 2nd and final reading will be next month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- ❖ See Joint for other Old Business.
- ❖ TLU 5K from Nov offered up more donation following final sales of t-shirts and other close out items. Another donation of \$506 from TLU is the result. Add this to the \$1200 raised in Nov comes to a little over \$1700 raised by TLU. Great supporters and a fantastic job by their students to raise money for the Chapter.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ❖ See Joint Session.
- ❖ **Motion to purchase a full page ad in Department Convention Book Comrade Tomas Castellon, 2nd by Comrade Leon Garcia, carries.**
- ❖ Discussed upcoming renewal of grants from corporate sponsors and the fiscal impact if we should not get them. Chapter is going to be very frugal with monies until we know of the outcome of these grants.
- ❖ Discussed lessons learned from Mid-Winter seminar. In particular, went over rules for donating covering fraternal vs service related donations.

GOOD of the ORDER

- ❖ Bible Study is ongoing. This class cover's "Praying God's Way."
- ❖ Geronimo VFW will hold their annual BBQ contest Mar 7. Need judges, good stuff here, always a lot of fun and good food.
- ❖ Comrade Tomas Castellon brought greetings from the Seguin City Council and a job well done concerning the Veteran's Day Parade executed last Nov. City was very enthusiastic about the parade and request we continue and that they would like to become a player in the next one. Additionally, the City is "considering" a proposal to build a veteran's Wall in Veteran's Park, a monumental undertaking. Details to follow, but everyone is excited about the possibility. Good job Councilman Castellon.
- ❖ Next month will be the first month of nominations. Cdr Sierer stated he did not intend on running again and hoped he had "Done right by all of by us in his last 4 years." Think about who you want to nominate. For the Record Cdr Phil has done a great job.

Moment of Silence. Remembrance of fallen comrades.

Motion for Adjournment:

Motion by Leon Garcia, 2nd by Roland Charles, motion carried.

CLOSING CEREMONY: __x__ Salute __x__ Closing Prayer by Chaplain Cusson
Next meeting will be 7 PM, on Mar 10th.